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Sent: 1/13/2022 1:01:25 PM
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Subject: De-listed Impaired Waters; Water Reuse: Clean Water Council Update

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Impaired & De-Listed Waters Media Roundup

There has been some good news reports about successful de-listing of several water bodies in Minnesota lately. (EPA has yet to approved proposed de-listing from Minnesota's draft Impaired Waters List.)

Delisting sampler: Clean Water Funds linked to lake, stream improvements: The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) profiles examples of BWSR-backed and Clean Water Fund-supported water quality work that contributed to proposed removals from the state's impaired waters list in 2022.

Minnesota's cleaned-up lakes, rivers show a path forward - StarTribune.com: LeMay Eagan in Dakota County is featured (paywall).

Surprising mercury pollution improvements in Minnesota lakes raise questions, give hope - StarTribune.com: Mercury is usually something restoration efforts cannot address, but there are some noted reductions in mercury detected in some Minnesota waters (paywall).

Photo: Outlet Creek Flows from Lake Minnewaska to Lake Emily in Pope County. Photo credit: Pope County SWCD

Upcoming Meetings & Project Updates



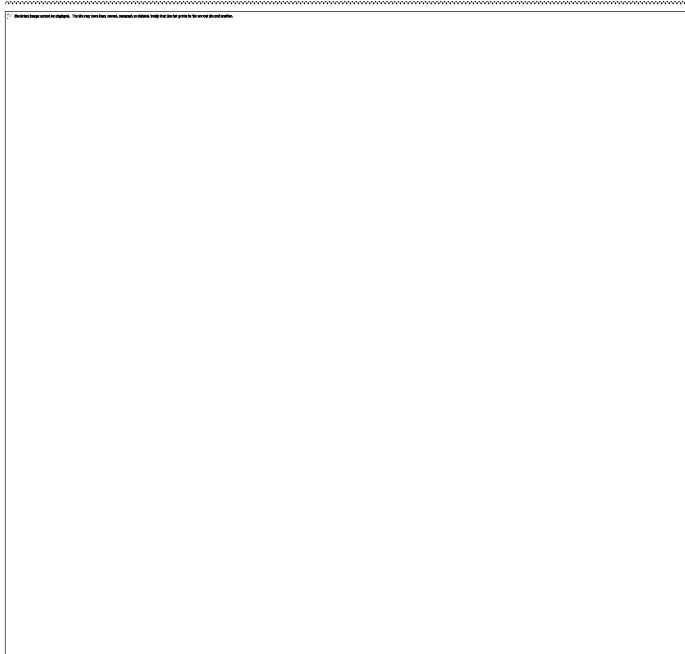
Upcoming Meetings

Full Council: The next meeting is Monday, **January 24th**. The **December 20th** meeting is cancelled. The packet from the **November 15th** meeting (small grants RFP draft, strategic plan review, timeline for 2022 Clean Water Fund recommendations process) has been posted at [our web site](#).

Policy Committee: The next meeting is Friday, **January 28th**. (The December meeting was cancelled.) The presentations from the **November 19th** meeting (topics: soil health conversation, pharmaceutical policy statement) have been posted [at our web site](#).

Budget & Outcomes Committee: The next meeting is **Friday, February 4th**. The packet from the **January 7th** meeting (topics: Clean Water Fund Performance Report; Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Lakewide Action and Management Plans-LAMP; draft LiDAR report) [has been posted](#).

Meetings at MPCA have WebEx capability for on-line viewing. [Contact us](#) for details. NOTE: WebEx recordings are moving to a new server. We will only have on-demand access to archived WebEx recordings for the previous six months.



Updates on Projects Supported by the Clean Water Fund

Minnesota River Headwaters Draft WRAPS & TMDL: The MPCA has completed a draft Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the Minnesota River Headwaters Watershed (MRHW) in western Minnesota. (See green shading above.) The MPCA has this [nifty summary](#). The MPCA [is accepting comments](#) through February 9th. According to the WRAPs:

The dominant agricultural land use in the MRHW contributes sediment, bacteria, and nutrients, resulting in water quality impairments beyond natural background or pre-European settlement levels. The mutual goals of agricultural production and environmental conservation can be better managed with increased diversity in cropping systems and tillage, better nutrient and manure management, and improved hydrology with more water storage and managed artificial drainage. These can be achieved with available technology, financial incentives, and increased voluntary efforts by landowners.

Reuse of Stormwater and Rainwater in Minnesota: A Public Health Perspective: The Minnesota Department of Health has released this public health white paper. The evaluation showed that pathogens in stormwater have the potential to infect people exposed to untreated stormwater when used in applications such as irrigation systems or indoor uses, and outlines interim recommendations to consider for those implementing stormwater reuse practices.

2022 Urban Stormwater Research Request for Proposals: The Clean Water Fund supports research at the University of Minnesota's Water Research Center and the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. The 2022 Urban Stormwater Research request for proposals is now out, with pre-proposals due January 28th.

Certified Farm Program in International Story on Hypoxia: *The Economist* produced a YouTube video about hypoxia (aka the "Dead Zone" caused by nitrogen and phosphorus in the Gulf of Mexico). A Minnesota farmer who is certified by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is featured when discussing solutions. Discussion of the Gulf starts at about four minutes, and the Minnesota story is at 12 minutes or so.

Other Relevant Water News

Texas Tech assistant prof studying ways to manage PFAS: Texas Tech University's Jennifer Guelfo, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental & Construction Engineering through the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, is the co-principal investigator (P.I.) on a \$394,500 project with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to study PFAS in land-applied biosolids.

National Fish Habitat RFP: Fishers & Farmers Partnership (FFP) for the Upper Mississippi River Basin, a fish habitat partnership, is seeking project proposals to benefit aquatic habitat in Mississippi River basin streams. Federal funding may be available under the National Fish Habitat Partnership through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund top ranked proposals. Proposals are due February 1.

Nine smart salting tips that protect Minnesota waters: The MPCA has some handy tips!

2022 Ag-Urban Partnership Forum on Water Quality: The third annual forum will be online on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 from 9 a.m. to noon. The need to bridge the social divide between ag and urban sectors – what one participant described as “breach the silos” – was the most talked-about topic at a [forum](#) held in 2019 and attended by more than 200 people. A [second forum](#) was held virtually in 2020 where discussions continued on ways to work together to protect Minnesota waters, including water quality trading between point and non-point sources. To keep the conversation and momentum going, join the [third annual forum Jan. 18](#).

CPL grant program is now accepting applications for FY2022

The Conservation Partners Legacy grant program (CPL) funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Grant requests may range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 with a maximum total project cost of \$575,000. Nonprofit organizations and government entities are eligible to apply, and a 10% match of non-state origin is required. Funding for the CPL program comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Approximately \$3 million is available for the Traditional cycle. Projects must be on public lands/waters or on lands protected by a permanent conservation easement. Apply by 3:00 PM February 21, 2022 for the second round of Traditional funding.

\$1.5 million is available for the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant cycle. ECP funds up to \$50,000 for eligible activities on public lands and waters. The ECP application is open continuously through May 9, 2022, or until all funds are awarded. Apply by 3:00 PM January 17, 2022 for the third round of ECP funding.

Additional Information:

- [FY2022 Request for Proposal](#)
- [FY2022 CPL Funding Schedule](#)
- [CPL Evaluation Criteria](#)

Questions? Please email lsoplgrants.dnr@state.mn.us for more information.

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